

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, Claims 7 and 11 have been amended.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by and Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Musacchia, U.S. Patent No. 5,273,380 (Musacchia). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Musacchia in view of Neukirchen, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,492,187 (Neukirchen).

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 7-11 are patentable over the cited references.

Specifically, Claims 7 and 11, as amended, now recites that the auxiliary bit is provided exclusively in a radially outer region of the drill head completely radially outwardly of the main bit (as shown in Figs. 1-2).

With the arrangement of main and auxiliary bits according to Claims 7 and 11, the load resistance and the service life of a drill head according to the invention are increased.

In Musacchia, the auxiliary bit(s) is/are located at the outer circumference of the drill head and are in frictional contact with the radial wall of the bore hole during drilling and will have a greater wear.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 7 and 11 are patentable over Musacchia and are allowable.

Claims 8-10 depend on Claim 7 and are likewise allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on September 17, 2003.

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